

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNGA, GW
SUBJECT: FIRST UN SUCCESS FOR THE FRG

1. AS THIS YEAR'S UNGA SESSION DREW TO A CLOSE, PRESS COMMENTARIES POINTED TO THE FRG'S CONVENTION ON THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES AS A MAJOR SUCCESS OF THE SESSION. COVERAGE OF CONVENTION'S PROGRESS IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN HEAVY AND ITS PASSAGE, BY "UNANIMOUS DECISION," WAS LAUDED AS A "CLEAR SUCCESS" FOR FRG DIPLOMACY AND THE "FIRST SUCCESS FOR THE FRG IN THE UN."

2. FONOFF COMMENTS ARE LESS GLOWING, BUT POSITIVE, NEVERTHELESS. THEY REALIZE THE PLANNING AND HARD NEGOTIATING THAT PAVED THE WAY FOR ACCEPTANCE AND NOTE THE 11TH HOUR COMPROMISE WITH LIBYA, WITHOUT WHICH SOME BELIEVE IT MIGHT NOT HAVE PASSED.

3. COMMENT: FRG PRIDE IN SEEING ITS INITIATIVE GET THROUGH IS SIGNIFICANT FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST IS THE SIMPLE FACT THAT THE FRG HAS STRONG FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT OF HOSTAGES AND WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO AMELIORATE THE PROBLEM. THE MEMORY
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OF MUNICH IN SUMMER 1972 IS STILL VIVID AND OTHER INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM WHERE HOSTAGES WERE INVOLVED IN RECENT YEARS HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN. SECOND, ITS PASSAGE HELPS ASSUAGE THE STING OF BEING UNJUSTLY BRANDED IN THE UN AS A MILITARY COLLABORATOR OF THE "RACIST REGIME" IN SOUTH AFRICA, FINISHING THE

SESSION ON A POSITIVE NOTE. THIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS
SURE TO BE CARRIED OVER INTO NEXT YEAR, WHEN THE FRG
ASSUMES ITS SEAT ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND MAY GIVE
THE FRG MORE CONFIDENCE IN ACCEPTING A
PROMINENT ROLE IN THE UN DURING 1977.
STOESSEL

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